

Demographics

Subcommittee Chair: Maureen King

Subcommittee Members: Margot Peter and Kate Farrell

Key Observations:

- The Town of Washington's population increased by 5.9% between 1990 and 2000. In comparison to some of the surrounding communities, this is not a significant increase.
- The number of Households in the Town also increased since 1990 at a rate of 10.3%.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of pre-school children and young adults (20-44) experienced declines of 11%, while middle age adults (45-64) and school aged children (5-19) grew by 25.6% and 21.3% respectively.
- The Town has a higher percentage of residents with a high school diploma and bachelor's degree or higher as compared to Dutchess County and New York State

Town of Washington

Located in central Dutchess County, the Town of Washington is a community of approximately 59.37 square miles and a 2000 population of 4,742. It is part of the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Washington is bordered by the Town of Stanford to the north, the Towns of Union Vale and Dover to the south, the Town of Amenia to the east, and the Towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton to the west. There is one village located with the Town's borders (Millbrook).

Population

According to the 2000 Census, the Town has a population of 4,742. Since 1990, the Town's population has increased by 263 residents or 5.9%. Dutchess County had a 1990 population of 259,462. In 2000, the Census reported the County's population at 280,150, a gain of 8.0% from 1990. The Town of Washington accounts for 1.6% of the County's overall population base.

As shown in Table 1, the Town of Washington (excluding Millbrook) has experienced steady growth over the last fifty years, with the most dramatic increase in population occurring between 1960 and 1980, a time of "rapid suburbanization". In comparison to the surrounding towns, only the Towns of Amenia and Dover experienced low growth or even population loss during the same period (1960-1980). In fact, most of the communities experienced higher rates of growth as compared to the Town of Washington (excluding Millbrook). Washington's population increased by 3.3% between 1980 and 1990 and 5.5% during the subsequent decennial period, indicating that while the number of residents continued to increase, the rate of population growth in the Town slowed substantially in recent decades.

Year	Washington (excluding Millbrook)	Village of Millbrook	Town of Washington	Dutchess County
1900	2,005	1,027	3,032	81,670
1910	1,891	1,136	3,027	87,661
1920	1,699	1,096	2,795	91,747
1930	1,746	1,296	3,042	105,462
1940	1,740	1,340	3,080	120,542
1950	1,859	1,568	3,427	136,781
1960	1,978	1,717	3,695	176,008
1970	2,672	1,735	4,407	222,295
1980	3,039	1,343	4,382	245,055
1990	3,140	1,339	4,479	259,462
2000	3,313	1,429	4,742	280,150

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

To update population data between the years of the decennial census, the Bureau of the Census produces population estimates for municipalities based on births, deaths, tax returns, and other records. The most recent estimates show that the population of the Town of Washington (outside Millbrook) increased to an estimated 3,353 persons and the Village of Millbrook increased to an estimated 1,521 in 2007 (overall Town of Washington population estimate of 4,874). Further, population estimates and projections were obtained from Claritas Inc., a private company that has been providing demographic data for marketing and other purposes for more than twenty years¹. Claritas produces annual demographic estimates and projections for many geographic levels, including small towns, making it a valuable resource when such information is not available from government agencies. According to Claritas, the Town of Washington's 2008 population is estimated at 4,921 with the projected 2013 population increasing to 5,037.

	2000 Census	2008 Estimate	2013 Projection	Percent Change 2000-08	Percent Change 2008-13
Town of Washington	4,742	4,921	5,037	3.8%	2.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census. Claritas Pop-Facts: Demographic Snapshot Comparison Report

Unlike the Town of Washington, there has been significant population growth in most of the neighboring communities that border the Town of Washington. As shown in Table 3, with the exception of the Towns of Amenia, Stanford and Clinton, all of the other Towns experienced double-digit population increases since the 1970s, while the number of residents in the Town of Union Vale increased by approximately 167%. The rate of growth in Washington was most comparable to the Town of Clinton.

¹ Claritas develops population estimates based on the most recent estimates produced by the Census Bureau at the national, state, and county levels. Population growth is then projected using forecasts provided by WEFA, an econometric forecasting firm. At smaller geographic levels, a variety of other sources, such as estimates from local agencies, household and consumer marketing databases, and other proprietary sources may also be used. While the estimates are useful for projections, it should be noted that the margin for error for small areas like small cities and census tracts is larger than for a state or region.

Municipality	1990	2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Town of Washington	4,479	4,742	5.9%
<i>Town of Washington (excluding Millbrook)</i>	<i>3,140</i>	<i>3,313</i>	<i>5.5%</i>
Town of Stanford	3,495	3,544	1.4%
Town of Amenia	5,195	4,048	-22.1% ²
Town of Dover	7,778	8,565	10.1%
Town of Union Vale	3,577	4,546	27.1%
Town of LaGrange	13,274	14,928	12.5%
Town of Pleasant Valley	8,063	9,066	12.4%
Town of Clinton	3,760	4,010	6.6%
Dutchess County	259,462	280,150	8.0%

Source: Bureau of the Census.

Households

Change in the number of households can impact the overall demand for housing in a community. As defined by the Census Bureau, a household includes all persons who occupy a housing unit. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more persons living together, or any other group of related or unrelated individuals who share living arrangements outside of an institution. In 2000, there were 1,914 households in the Town of Washington, representing an increase of 10.3% from the 1990 figure of 1,736 (Table 4). At the same time, there was a decline in the average number of persons per household in the Town, paralleling trends nationwide. In general, the decrease in household size over the last several decades is attributable to three factors: lower birth rates, with fewer children per family; a concurrent increase in single parent families; and a greater number of single-person households. Projections from Claritas, Inc. indicate that the number of households in the Town of Washington will increase to 2,108 in 2013.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i># Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>Persons per Household</i>
Town of Washington (excluding Millbrook)	1,113	1,236	123	11.1%	2.68
Village of Millbrook	623	678	55	8.8%	2.11
Town of Washington	1,736	1,914	178	10.3%	2.48
Dutchess County	89,567	99,536	9,969	11.1%	2.81

Source: Bureau of the Census.

In 2000, approximately 53.8% of the households in the Washington were considered traditional nuclear families with a husband, wife, and related children under age 18, while 10.7% were headed by a single parent. Non-family households including single-person households and

² Population decline due to the closing of the Taconic Development Disabilities Services Office in Wassaic.

households of unrelated persons (such as roommates or domestic partners) account for about one-third of the households in the Town.

Type	1990	2000	Change, 1990-2000
Married couple families	1,005(57.1%)	1,030 (53.8%)	2.5%
Male headed household, no wife	75 (4.3%)	65 (3.4%)	-13.3%
Female headed household, no husband	129(7.3%)	139 (7.3%)	7.8%
Non-family households	552 (31.3%)	679 (35.5%)	23.0%

Source: Bureau of the Census.

Race

In 1990 the census changed the way people were asked to report their race. Each respondent was asked to select whether they are Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino in addition to the other classic census categories. Because of this change the 2000 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 1990 or earlier censuses. Caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the US population over time.

	1990 Number	1990 Percent	2000 Number	2000 Percent	% Change 1990-2000
White	4,245	94.8%	4,370	92.2%	2.9%
African American or Black	141	3.1%	124	2.6%	-12.1%
American Indian	6	0.1%	3	0.1%	-50.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	8	0.2%	32	0.7%	300.0%
Other Race	2	0.04%	3	0.1%	50.0%
Two or More Races	n/a	n/a	40	0.8%	n/a
Hispanic Origin	77	1.7%	170	3.6%	120.8%
<i>Town of Washington</i>	<i>4,479</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>4,742</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>

Source: US Census Bureau (1990 and 2000).

According to the 2000 Census, there are 372 minorities in the Town of Washington comprising 7.8% of the population. African Americans and American Indians both experienced double digit population decreases. The largest minority group is the Hispanic population, which comprise 45.7% of all minorities and 3.6% of the town population. Less than 1.0% of Washington residents reported that they were of two or more races.

Age

The age distribution of Washington's population has implications for the delivery of services within the community, including education, recreation, and child care or elder care programs. Table 7 compares the Town's age distribution in 1990 and 2000. The most recent census figures show that in 2000, 30.4% of Town residents were between the ages of 25 and 44, while an additional 27.2% of residents are between the ages of 45 and 64. These individuals are now entering their peak earning years. The Town's school-age population (ages 5-19) represented 20.7% of the total population, while 5.3% of Washington's residents were under five years old in 2000.

	1990	%	2000	%	# change	% change
Pre-School (0-4)	281	6.3%	250	5.3%	-31	-11.0%
School (5-19)	809	18.1%	981	20.7%	172	21.3%
Reproductive Age (20-44)	1,621	36.2%	1,440	30.4%	-181	-11.2%
Middle Age (45-64)	1,026	22.9%	1,289	27.2%	263	25.6%
Retirement Age (65-74)	384	8.6%	413	8.7%	29	7.6%
Senior (75+)	358	8.0%	369	7.8%	11	3.1%
Total	4,479	100.0%	4,742	100.0%	263	5.9%

Source: US Census Bureau (1990 and 2000).

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of pre-school children in the Town declined 11.0%. The reproductive age group (ages 20-44) also declined similarly. At the same time, however, there was a significant increase in the number of residents age 45 to 64 (Part of this age group represents the baby boomers born during the 1946-1964 period when birth rates in the United States soared upward). The school age population (5-19) also experienced a significant increase at 21.3%. The median age increased from 37.9 to 41.0 from 1990 to 2000, and remains higher than both Dutchess County (36.7) and New York State (35.9). These figures indicate that the population of the Town of Washington is growing older at a faster rate than the Dutchess County or New York State population.

Claritas estimates for 2008 suggest there have been some shifts in the Town's population according to age since the 2000 Census. The 45-64 age group, for example, has increased substantially probably due to the aging of the baby boom category. The result has been a slight rise in the median age of the population to 42.8 years. The number of residents in the pre-school, school age and reproductive age categories all experienced slight declines in population, while the retirement age and senior population had increase of 6.1% and 6.8% respectively.

Educational Attainment

Educational services in the Town of Washington are provided by the Millbrook Central School District.

The decennial census provides information regarding the educational attainment of persons 25 years of age and older. According to the 2000 Census, 91.0% of residents of the Town of Washington have acquired at least a high school diploma (Table 8). In addition, Washington residents are more likely to have continued their education beyond high school compared to Dutchess County residents as a whole: in 2000, 33.4% of Town residents, compared to 27.6% of County residents, had earned a bachelor's degree or higher.

	No High School Diploma		High School Diploma or higher		Bachelor's Degree or higher	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
	Town of Washington	19.6%	9.0%	80.4%	91.0%	28.4%
Village of Millbrook	19.5%	10.0%	80.5%	90.0%	26.5%	33.4%
Dutchess County	20.2%	16.0%	79.8%	84.0%	24.8%	27.6%
New York State	25.2%	20.9%	74.8%	79.1%	23.1%	27.4%

Source: US Census Bureau (1990 and 2000).

Population and Economic Subcommittee

In preparation for the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the Steering Committee established separate subcommittees each charged with direct responsibility for data collection, analysis, and making recommendations to the Steering Committee on topic areas typically covered in a Comprehensive Plan. The Population and Economic Subcommittee was charged with the responsibility of updating Demographic and Economic data of the 1987 Town of Washington Master Plan. Some observations on the population from the Subcommittee include the following:

- School population: This population in the Town and Village has increased by 45% from 1987 to 2005; 1987 Total Students: 837; 2005 Total Students: 1,213
- Aging population: In 2000 the total population of people 65 and older in the Town and Village was 16.5% of the total population (782) and that population is projected to increased by 18.5% in 2010 (935).
- Total population: Our total population has increased by 15% since 1980. 1980 Census including Village and Town: 43 82. 201 0 (projection*) including Village and Town: 5056
- Renters: According the 2000 Census, the Town of Washington had 37.2% renter occupied units. According to the 2000 Census the Village of Millbrook had 48.7% renter occupied units. According to the 1990 Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development Databook the total number of housing units in the Town of Washington was 1736. 1,067 were owner occupied (61.5) and 669 were renter occupied (38.5%). According to the 1990 Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development Databook, the total number of housing units in the Village of Millbrook was 623. 323 were owner occupied (51.8%) and 300 were renter occupied (48.2). In the 1987 Master Plan (page 37), the document reports that 62% of housing units in the Town of Washington were owner-occupied.
- Second Homes: The Committee was unable to calculate an accurate statistic on the number of second homes in the Town of Washington and the Village of Millbrook. We ask that the professional planners work to include this information in the new planning data, as this segment of our population needs to be studied and considered in any of our community values and vision statements. In addition, many of these parcels are large tracts of land that could be sites future residential development.